

Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2010

Attendance: Conservation Commission members: Dena Desena, Dick Bauman, John Planinsek, Judith Dooley, John Marchewka, Marti Blair; Town Planner Maureen O'Meara; Town Council Liaison Jessica Sullivan.

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.
2. January 2010 Draft minutes were reviewed and approved by the CC.
3. Correspondence
Maureen O'Meara reminded CC members to periodically check the Town Web Site "Contact" link page for correspondence applicable to the CC.
4. Open Space Management Plan
Maureen O'Meara provided the CC with a Draft Outline of the Open Space Management Plan (MP) for review and comment. The CC discussed the outline and other issues related to completion of the plan in a timely manner, including structure of the committee that would produce the plan, meeting dates and times, preparation of a Draft "Charge" to be submitted to the Town Council for review and approval, and a schedule for completion. The following specific items were addressed by the CC:
 - It was agreed that the CC should be responsible for preparing the MP, because of CC's experience and knowledge with regard to Town open spaces and trails.
 - Jessica Sullivan indicated that she was successful in locating one and possibly two, model open space management plans that the CC can use for reference purposes.
 - CC agreed through a motion and approval to have Maureen prepare the Draft Charge to be submitted to the Town Council for approval. The Contents of the charge were discussed by the CC and will be prepared for submittal to the town Council by Maureen.
 - CC agreed to set-up a schedule with progress target dates.
 - CC agreed that the MP should deal exclusively with management of open space and trails, rather than land use issues, as land use issues should be covered in the Green Belt plan.
 - CC discussed the applicability and practicality of "Monitoring" as part of the MP. Since there are few if any visible boundary markers along the Greenbelt Trails, monitoring of private property use encroachment into a trail or open space could not be adequately accomplished by the CC, given the present condition of the trails. The CC agreed that this will be a matter of further discussion and consideration.
 - The CC agreed to hold its first MP meeting on Monday March 22nd.

5. Misc. Trail Improvement Projects
 - CC reviewed a memorandum prepared by Maureen O'Meara to the CC regarding Public Works willingness to assist with certain trail maintenance. The CC members expressed gratitude towards Public Works for all the assistance they have provided for the up keep of the Town's trail system.
 - John Marchewka presented the CC with an update on the Great Pond Boardwalk pole caps. The proposed new galvanized steel caps can be smoothed by the manufacturing company for an extra \$0.25/cap. The total cost of the caps would be \$0.97/cap. The CC made a motion to purchase the new cap with smoothing. John Plaininsek agreed to install the new caps once received.
6. The CC reviewed and discussed the Town Council's 2010 Work Plan and Goals
7. Boat Storage Racks for Great Pond

Maureen O'Meara indicated that Mike Duddy (CC Member) went to Portland's East End Beach to look over Portland's boat racks. Mike has a conceptual plan for constructing the boat racks for Great Pond and Maureen will contact him regarding materials and schedule.

 - The boat racks need to be in-place by the end of March.
 - CC discussed the process for notifying residents that boats presently stored at the landing must be removed before the end of March. Notification will be made using the Town Web site, Cape Currier, and possibly letters mailed to residents surrounding Great Pond.
8. On-line Green Belt Maps

The CC reviewed a draft copy of an RFP for GPS mapping services. It was agreed to seek a lump sum bid for all the trail segments that need mapping. Motion was made and approved to send out the RFP.
9. Gull Crest Trail improvements are on hold until the final DEP permit is obtained.
10. CC reviewed the Planning Board agenda. It was agreed that no issues exist on the agenda that warrant comments from the CC.
11. Maureen agreed to contact Public Works regarding the first bridge at Winnick Woods. CC members discussed lengthening the ramps on both sides of the bridge to reduce the sharp angle where the ramps connect to the flat part of the main bridge deck. Field observations made by CC members indicate that the sharp angle causes issues for Public Works when moving equipment into the field for mowing.
12. No trail walk was scheduled for the month of February.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.